

Iowa County Court House,
Dodgerville, Wisconsin.

Iowa Co.

HABS No. 28-15.

HABS
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Photographs
Written Historical and Descriptive Data.
District No. 28.

Historic American Buildings Survey.
Alexander C. Guth, District Officer.
1249 N. Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

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IOWA COUNTY COURT HOUSE
Dodgeville, Iowa County, Wisconsin

Owner: Iowa County.

Date of Erection: 1859.

Architect: The main entrance of this building is from a design
in The Modern Architect (1855) by Edward Shaw.

Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Stone.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

IOWA COUNTY COURT HOUSE

The Iowa County Court House is located in the city of Dodgeville, Wisconsin. In 1858 the county seat of Iowa County was moved from Mineral Point to Dodgeville. There was considerable controversy between the two towns over this change and bad feeling still exists today between the two communities.

At that time the Board of Supervisors authorized the building committee to prepare plans and specifications for a building "of sufficient size and capacity and suitable construction for a Court House and Jail, with proper Jurors' Rooms and Jailer's Residence, not to exceed in cost \$10,000.00."

This work was begun immediately and a stone building was erected to serve this purpose. The building was completed in 1859, and has since been added to, the first addition being placed directly back of the present structure. The second addition of recent date was built in the form of a wing to the north.

The stone work on the exterior was very carefully executed of local stone and is still in wonderfully fine condition.

Some features of this court house are specially noteworthy. The main entrance in its entirety was cribbed from a book on early architecture, published in 1855 and

called "The Modern Architect". It's author was Edward Shaw. It is a well known fact amongst architects and students of archeology that the Greeks in placing the corner columns at their temples slanted them in a bit at the top. It seems almost uncanny to believe that this same refinement occurs at this Court House. In other words the vertical axis lines of the columns are in about 4" further at the top than at the bottom. This makes for the unusual appearance of solidity of this building.

Alexander C. Smith
District Officer

Reviewed by H.C.F., 1936